

MILLBURY PUBLIC ACCESS/CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street
Thursday April 18, 2013 – 7:15 p.m.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Present: Mary Krumsiek; Richard Carew; Jeffrey Dore; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos

APR 16 AM 8:58
MILLBURY, MASS.

Absent: Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Roger Desrosiers; Lori Burrows-Associate Member

Chairman Krumsiek opened the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

PLAYBACK SYSTEM

A playback system upgrade with what we have will cost about \$12,000. If we add streaming and VOD it is an extra added fee - \$3000 per year. Anything viewable on the access channel will be available on Video-On-Demand. They store it all; we do not need a server.

The playback system went down and disabled us from broadcasting for one week. It was the flash drive inside; basically like a motherboard. It was sent to Michigan for a week turnaround. They bill back for return shipping.

There is the E-HD2 system for \$16,000, but we are not HD; we are still analog; we are not even digital yet. The ultraNEXUS-SDI is \$14000 - 2 channel player 2, channel recorder (we have only 1 now), standard definition, message system and bulletin board. It does VOD if we buy the extra piece that goes with it, plus the \$3k per month hosting fee.

Kevin recommends the Leightronics ultraNEXUS for \$11,500 with streaming on demand, message system, and DVD/VCR controller built in. This would be used as the new system. The system we just had rebuilt will be the back-up; we had it for 4 or 5 years before anything happened to it. Potentially we have another 5 years out of that machine. In 5 years technology may be so different; this might not even be compatible with what Charter and Verizon are doing.

Jeff asked if we are going to have to put this out to bid. Kevin said if we are sure we want to go with Leightronics we can go to a state bid list vendor for it. If we want to branch out and go with a totally different system, he is not sure if what he has would be compatible.

Jeff: in the process of replacing do we dare go seek equivalents?

Bob: can we seek without obligations?

Jeff: we can request presentations.

Kevin: we can have demonstrations for no cost.

Rich: if you start with on demand is there a contract? Do you have to keep it for a set time? Do any other towns demand this?

Bob: it will help us and give us a level of credibility as to why we chose the vendor and system that we did.

Rich: I would like to see the difference in prices first; I would want to see a really huge upgrade.

Jeff: if others are exorbitant in cost we may just want Leightronics to come in so we know what we are buying.

Kevin: their telephone support is phenomenal. If you have their system, for the lifetime of the system you can call with any question any time and they can tell you from step 1, from the first person (no call transferring) what steps to take. We need a page on the town's website to provide a link to the on-demand. I want something I can go in and update on a regular basis.

Bob: come in with some comparisons, then set up Leightronics to come in and do the dog and pony show – no professional jargon.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1) The Town Manager wants Kevin to televise all boards and committees; recorded to be televised at another time, meetings do not have to be live. It will require additional personnel and additional equipment. He will see if remote control cameras we are getting for other locations are tripod mountable. Kevin does not recommend wiring every meeting room with mounted equipment (i.e. BOH office, COA meeting room). The small conference room at town hall will be wired with the 2 old cameras from the Selectmen's meeting room, so the only cost is the wiring.

2) Kevin is working with Rule Sales in Boston to purchase new equipment for the Selectmen's meeting room. However, they are on the state bid list for rentals and not for sales. Kevin is researching another vendor and is working with Finance Director Brian Turbitt. It will be about \$35,000 for 3 new cameras, a controller and a switcher, and installation.

3) Studio use is trending up; there is very little free space open on the calendar. Most shows are back in full force; Local Rock took 3 months off. We added a new 15 minute fitness show from Krave Fitness at the Felters Mill which Kevin is editing.

4) We shot 2 candidates nights. One in studio on Joe Coggan's "On the Light Side" and the other was the Democratic Town Committee candidates night.

The Conservation Commission did a PSA about the longhorn beetle; a 30 second PSA can be fit in anywhere.

The DPW provided recycling PSAs (public service announcement).

We shot the Dollars For Scholars trivia night. The first camera shows the question being read and the second camera went table to table for shots.

Kevin said he will need 2-3 part-time employees. One person can figure out where and when meetings are, then schedule who will cover which meeting. If you do 3 meetings a week at 3 hours per meeting, you've reached your time limit. I have to post the jobs and find the right people; he needs people with video experience. They are public meetings in public locations and anyone can come in and set up and record a meeting. We'll start off with a memo from the Town Manager's office stating that in the next 6 months we are implementing videotaping (or televising live) your meetings. Based on the calendar that the Town Clerk's office puts out each week there is a lot that needs to be done, and some meetings are at the same time. We are currently doing 3 meetings. We shoot this meeting here, and televised the meeting with Charter Communications live. Channel 11 (Charter) and channel 26 (Verizon) are the "government channels" so all government meetings should be played back on that channel. We will simulcast on both channels until people get used to the government meetings being on Charter 11 and Verizon 26.

We will have to cut back on replay times on all shows. Some are now 6 nights a week but we will have to cut back to a show replaying 2 times a week. Cover bands that come in to do other peoples music, does this open it up to copyright liability? Putting something on the web makes it worldwide. Someone owning a song has potential to see this. Kevin researched music libraries where you can get CDs to own and it is all copyright-free material. Kevin would prefer to own the CDs and have them here; a lot of it is now MP3 and go to site and download. It is a membership fee, not a cost per download. Services were expensive; he will have the cost at the next meeting. Kevin has been using a program called GarageBand to make songs.

NEW BUSINESS

In 2008 we voted to give a scholarship and we've never given one. This is the first year that someone has applied for it.

Motion made by Mary Krumsiek to give a \$1000 to a graduating senior.

Jeff asked where the money is coming from; Kevin said it is coming from our account.

Rich asked if it pertains to the definition of what we are allowed to do with our money.

Bob said it has already been cleared but we did not give it. Jeff does not remember us seeking an opinion that grant money can be used for this. Rich asked if we agree on a number before; Mary said it was \$500.

Motion tabled; Kevin will ask if they are able to give it.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Jeff Dore, seconded by Bob Sullivan to approve the meeting minutes of February 21, 2013. **Motion** carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob referenced Jeff's inquiry last month about (town) locations (having cable access) and someone should keep an eye on this. Jeff said his point was to ask who takes the initiative. Mary said this should be brought up at the next cable negotiation meeting. Jeff asked if each fire station should request a box. Kevin said in 2014 Charter will require that every TV have a box.

Jeff asked if they could have a single box at our input or do we need a box for every single television in the fire departments? Kevin said every TV in the school needs to have a box, not just one main one, because then every TV would have to be watching the same station.

Bob stated that one box for every TV should be in the new contract; we did not make this change, Charter did. Jeff said all town-owned buildings with Charter should be able to get the download that they are due.

Kevin passed out an email from Charter.

The committee does not meet in June, July and August.

Kevin stated that according to the Town Manager, Verizon is at 52% for subscribers in town. Rich is curious to see what will happen when the contract runs out; Kevin thinks

people will be checking options. Bob asked if we can bring in Comcast, but Kevin said not with Charter and Verizon already here.


NEXT MEETING is Thursday May 16, 2013 in the studio.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Bob Sullivan, seconded by Jeff Dore to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson, Secretary




Mary Krumsiek, Chairman

Frank Irr, Vice Chairman



Robert Sullivan, Clerk



Richard Carew



Roger Desrosiers



Paul DiCicco

Jeffrey Dore

Kevin Krassopoulos

From: Tish Hayes
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 8:36 AM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos
Subject: FW: Verizon Notice to Subscribers

From: Robert Spain
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Tish Hayes
Subject: FW: Verizon Notice to Subscribers

Cc: cable

Bob Spain
Town Manager
Town of Millbury
508-865-4710
bspain@townofmillbury.net

From: Frere, Mary Louise [<mailto:mary.l.frere@verizon.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 2:32 PM
Subject: Verizon Notice to Subscribers

Dear Municipal Official:

This is to notify you that due to the rising costs of providing quality programming, effective on or after June 7, 2013, the rates for the FiOS TV grandfathered EXTREME HD packages will increase from \$67.99 to \$74.99. These packages are no longer being offered. Subscribers to these plans will receive the following bill message notice in April or May 2013 depending upon bill cycle.

FiOS Rate Increase

In order to continue to bring you quality service, at times we need to raise our rates. On or after 30 days from the date of this bill, the base monthly rate for your FiOS Bundle plan or your FiOS TV plan will increase by \$7. If you would like to keep your current service as is, no action is required and any credits or discounts remain in effect until their original expiration date. If you have recently upgraded to a new FiOS plan, you may disregard this notice. We offer many other bundle options that can help you get the most for your money. Just call and a FiOS rep will help find the best value for you. You may even be eligible for a special offer when you switch to a new FiOS bundle with a two-year agreement and two-year price guarantee. Call 1-877-896-4449 (Mon.-Fri., 8am-9pm; Sat., 9am-5pm) or go to verizon.com/fios/6ja for more information. Be sure to have your Verizon bill handy for reference.

Additionally, there was an omission in Verizon's December 2012 rate increase notice. On or after March 28, 2013, the grandfathered ESSENTIALS package rates increased from \$47.99 to \$53.99 and \$57.99 to \$63.99, and another grandfathered EXTREME HD package rate increased from \$57.99 to \$63.99. These packages are no longer being offered. Subscribers received a bill message noticing the rate increase in December 2012 or January 2013 depending upon bill cycle.

We realize that our subscribers have other alternatives for entertainment and our goal is to offer the best choice and value in the industry. Verizon appreciates the opportunity to conduct business in your community. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Frere
Franchise Service Manager
617-743-4119

Jill Reddish
Franchise Service Manager
617342-0558

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner, and is believed to be clean.